

QSA-5

Since 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Club's Monthly Newsletter

November, 1995

Red Cross Callout

By Stu Dake AC6GD

Tuesday, October 3, 1995 proved to be a real test of MARC's station at the Red Cross Building in San Rafael. Just days after the first Red Cross-RACES exercise, the Mt. Vision fire in West Marin had erupted and was spreading fast, burning everything in its path, including many homes. The Red Cross sprang into action providing care and support to the fire fighters and fire victims.

At around 5:20pm I was alerted by Mike W6FCQ that the Red Cross had requested mutual aid from Marin County RACES and that RACES was activated. The station was opened at around 5:30 or so, and within thirty minutes we had two hams on their way to West Marin to help out at the Point Reyes Fire Station which is the "West Marin EOC".

For the next seven days, MARC's Red Cross station was manned by hams from RACES, MARC, and just plain hams who wanted to help out. (I am sorry to say, I am very disappointed at the low number of hams who are members of RACES who volunteered their time). On Thursday, Red Flag was called out, further dwindling our staffing--but we

made it through the day without incident. Saturday brought a new challenge to us, we had to staff the Red Cross' Com Van, send hams with damage assessment teams, staff ARC (Red Cross San Rafael) help with communications at the shelters and the "Red Barn" family service center. A lot of confusion ensued and we did the best we could. On Sunday, it seemed pretty calm to us at ARC, unaware that confusion had run amok at Point Reyes Station.

We shut down Sunday, opening up the 147.330 repeater for general use. On Monday, we staffed ARC with a few people and began to run the coax to our new room at ARC.

While we have received much criticism from NON VOLUNTEERS I feel we did fine considering the circumstances. This was the only RACES activation since the floods of 1982 (I am told), and only the second time the station was activated since the short time that I have been around (remember we opened in early January with the flooding in West Marin).

I am very proud of all those who volunteered their time. Thanks for the help, it sure was appreciated. I did not list all the

President's QST

by Grant Pritchard KK6JJ

I'll make the message short this month

1. Please give the enclosed ballot your close attention, mark it and send it back to us in the enclosed envelope.
2. A reminder that November's meeting is our Annual Membership Meeting and one of the main features will be a report from the Long Range Planning Committee.
3. The Christmas Party's location has been finalized. It will be held at Embassy Suites Hotel, 101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael (at the Civic Center) 6:00 PM, Sunday, 10th of December — a welcome change from last year's party.

What Kind Of Bird Are You?

by Karen Watts, CAPCA President

Members of associations come in many species. Are you familiar with any of the following?

The Featherweight Freeloader:

Freeloaders recognize the importance of your association to your industry or your profession, but they think that as long as there is a reasonable number of good

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names and calls, for fear of leaving someone out. But you know who you are.

Look for more training in the near future, ie: Red Cross operations and jargon, efficient message sending, etc. I hope more people will participate so when "the big one" hits we'll be ready.

Class 95C Results

by Chet, WA6PAC

Of the 9 students from Class 95C who showed up for the VE Exam Session at the Clubhouse on Saturday, 9/2/95, 8 passed their tests!

The result was 7 new Novice Techs and even one Tech Plus. In addition, some other students are currently taking Steve Mosconi's (WB6KSS) Wednesday Code Class, so we may have some more Tech Plus hams soon and may even get some more Generals.

Three other students who were not able to show up for the exam, plus one other student, who only passed element 2, have already paid their fees for Class 95D which starts Wednesday, November 15. Anyone else who wants to join the last class of 1995, i.e. 95D, should sign up with Chet Rice, WA6PAC, by calling him at 461-0657.

For Sale

40' tower - four sections on the ground. \$100 and you take it. Also, a Sure mike for \$25.
Ken Bowman W6IBQ, 388-3026

Business Meeting 9/18/95

The meeting was called to order by President Grant KK6JJ at 1930 hrs.

Treasurer's Report: Bob KO6EN reported that with the additional money from our surplus equipment sale, our account now stands at \$4701.00

Trustees Report: Mike W6FCQ submitted the trustees report which contained the following: 1. The use of a meeting room at the Kaiser Medical Facility. (Permission has already been granted to use this room for our October membership meeting). 2. The installation of a new antenna system at the Red Cross Bldg. (No problems with this system so far). 3. The installation of the Kenwood 830 at the Clubhouse. A packet station is also operational, thanks to the efforts of Steve Mosconi WB6KSS and Stu Dake AC6GD. 4. The possible acquisition of a larger room across the hall from our Red Cross Station. (Stu has acquired the services of a volunteer architect who can draw the necessary plans for redesigning, should this room become available.

RACES Report: A recommendation of upgrade in radio equipment at the Red Cross is as follows: 1. Two Kenwood model 733A Dual band transceivers. 2. Four 2 Meter hand-helds for portable operations. These upgrades are necessary to insure that station operations can be either simplex or cross band repeat capable.

Flea Market Report: Stu AC6GD reported that surplus equipment sales came in with a net of \$579.00

Red Cross Report: Stu mentioned a joint Red Cross /Races exercise drill. This exercise will run from 8:30 to 11:00 AM on 9/30/95. Stu hopes for a big turnout for RACES needs radio operators and to be more active with the Red Cross.

ACS Report: The continuing problems with the K6GWE repeater system was the subject of discussion here.

Membership Report: Greg Exline KD6YRB reported that the membership stands unchanged at 162 members.

Nominating Committee: President Grant has mentioned the formation of a nominating committee consisting of himself, Bob Mott KO6EN, Pete Wolford N6IYU and Bill Morrissey KM6UX.

Long Range Planning Committee: A report will be submitted to MARC board as well as the general membership as to the status of the committee. Another meeting of the committee is scheduled between now and the next board meeting. Results are in from the questionnaire and the committee is beginning to move in response to issues like future meeting places, options involving Bldg. 549 and increasing membership thorough our educational program.

Board Member Replacement: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ must give up his position as Director at Large

because of a conflicting work schedule. Stu Dake AC6GD was appointed to take his place and was unanimously accepted by the board.

Ham of the Year: A committee consisting of Chet Rice WA6PAC and Dick Fay KB6JJI has been appointed to choose the candidate. They will confer with all former Ham of the Year awardees.

Christmas Dinner: A possible date of Sunday, December 10th has been suggested by Grant. A further discussion of this date for the party will be held at our October board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2045 hrs. Respectfully submitted, Bill Morrissey KM6UX, Acting Secretary.

Business Meeting 10/17/95

The meeting was called to order by President Grant KK6JJ at 1930 hrs.

Treasurer's Report: Bob KO6EN reported that MARC account now stands at \$4592.55 Bob also mentioned that by the looks of things, we will have a balanced budget for the fiscal '95 year.

Membership Report: Pete N6IYU announced that no new members have joined during the month of October and membership has remained unchanged.

Station Manager's Report: Stu AC6GD reported that the Scouts Jamboree On-The-Air

(JOTA) is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 21st from 0800 to 1700 hrs. Stu hopes to make HF contacts to other Scout Jamboree stations all over the world. "It will be like a contest" says Stu.

Educational Report: Chet WA6PAC reported that about 3 maybe 4 people have signed up for the next class. Interest in the class has been moderate at best. Chet mentioned that some Red Cross volunteers were possibly interested in becoming hams.

RACES/Red Cross: Stu AC6GD submitted a report summarizing the response to the devastating Mt. Vision fire in West Marin. For seven days the Red Cross stations were manned by operators from RACES, MARC and other ham volunteers. When Saturday arrived, RACES and MARC hams were asked to staff the Red Cross "COM VAN" as well as keep with their duties in communicating with the shelters and "Red Barn" family service center. Stu admits a lot of confusion resulted in the wake of this catastrophe but at the same time the volunteers got through it without incident. Stu also feels that there has been a lot of unjust criticism from non-volunteers who did not participate in any way.

In summary, Stu is quite proud of all people who volunteered their time and effort. Hopefully, more training with the Red Cross and more volunteers will make us more efficient to handle the next disaster.

Long Range Planning Committee: Grant reported that the

status of our clubhouse remains unchanged. We may or may not have to abandon building 549 by the first or second quarter of '96. If we have to leave, the possible options will be to have meetings at Kaiser medical office building #2 and to operate our radio station at the Red Cross. Grant also mentioned that if MARC stays at Hamilton, we will still have to deal with issues such as cost of insurance, limited parking and the ability for some members to even reach the clubhouse. Grant also said that from the questionnaire response, most members polled felt that MARC is a solid club and should not fold. Our finances are secure and we have been around since 1933.

Nominating Committee: Chet has drawn up a list of about 40 people who might be interested in running for next years board. For right now, there are 4 people who have indicated they would like to run for director: Bob Laflamme KC6UNC, Stu Dake AC6GD, Bill Morrissey KM6UX and John Larson N6YNF. We need to finalize the list of nominees and get a ballot out with the mailing of November's QSA-5. Time is of the essence.

Christmas Party: Grant reported that December 10th is the date for the party. We are looking at Embassy Suites as the site for our gathering, with Marin Joe's as the alternative. Plans for the Christmas Party should be finalized by next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2119 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by Bill

Morrisey KM6UX Acting
Secretary.

Races - Red Cross Joint Exercise

A Critique by Stu Dake, AC6GD

The joint exercise between Red Cross and Races on 9/30/95 proved to be a success. Twenty two Hams participated. I think one or two were not RACES members. Once the QST went out for operators, a check-in was held. It went very smoothly. Every one waited for his assignment. It should be noted that in a large scale disaster, RACES will probably assign you where you're needed. It may not be where you want to go, but we hope you'll take the assignment in stride.

Everyone seemed to find the simulated shelter sites w/o too much trouble. In a real situation, there may be more confusion, but normally, shelters are marked with lots of signs.

All traffic was passed in a timely manner. We did find a few problems:

a. Intermod between the two VHF radios in the shack. One radio on 7.33 would wipe out 6.70. We think we can cure this problem by moving the antennas around.

b. Room too small to have two operators and two message writers. We were lucky that the RC has a two meter radio in their disaster shack which we utilized,

Thank You Greg, KD6YRB

The Club wishes to thank you for all your hard work as Membership Chairman. We appreciate your input and diligence.....Ed.

but in a real disaster, I don't think we will be able to operate from there.

c. Operators sending traffic should send message SLOWLY-- You have to remember that the receiving station is trying to write the message as you speak. Try to follow the RACES format and give messages SLOWLY so that it doesn't have to be repeated.....

d. Write clearly, or better yet, PRINT the message so it can be read w/o asking for an interpretation.

e. Priority traffic must be handled with Priority. Do not put it in the box with normal traffic.

f. Races members are not familiar with RED + terminology, i.e: ERV, SM, etc. We will work on it.

On behalf of the Red Cross, Marin County RACES, MARC, and myself, I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time and resources to make this exercise a success. We would also like to thank ACS for the use of both VHF repeaters.

Bill Doyle, RACES administrator for Marin County OES said that this was "The best exercise Marin Co. RACES has ever had".

Remember, in a real disaster you may be asked to go to a location

w/o working facilities. You should always have at least one extra battery for your HT; possibly a mag-mount antenna or some type which will give you better propagation. You may want to bring some drinking water, some food or snacks, inclement weather gear and a writing pad and pencil.

Remember--BE PREPARED

A New Room at RC for W6SG

by Stu, AC6GD

If you haven't been by the Red Cross building lately you haven't seen the new station.....As a result of the Mt. Vision fire, we found we couldn't provide adequate communications from the old room.

We have since moved across the hall to the new Red Cross-MARC communications room. Thanks to Rich WB6UDS for running the coax in a hurry so we could shut the windows at night.

As part of the agreement to use the new room, we had to relocate the BBS from the hallway into the station (Roger now has a desk to work from) and become more active in Red Cross training while showing a greater interest in the DAT (Disaster Action Team) meetings. We can provide ham training to Red Cross volunteers at the student-senior rate. I think we can meet all these goals, but it will take more participation from MARC members. We are already off to a good start.

If you would like to attend a DAT meeting, they are usually

held on the last Tuesday of each month in San Rafael at 7 PM. Please give me a call if you are interested.

DAT Meeting Dates:

October 24,1995

November 28,1995

December--No meeting

January 30,1996

**Please Support MARC
and the Red Cross!**

Printer needed by Editor

Does anyone have an unused, small dot matrix printer on his/her shelf?

Sometimes it is just too complicated to get the Laser printer to do a simple job — labels, postcards.come to mind

Call Pete N6IYU at 924-1578

143122

members in the flock, the good work will mostly get done without them.

The Stalwart Backbender:

These birds are a major part of the flock. They pay their dues on time, contribute to the association programs and participate in the major meetings. Tho we appreciate their contributions, we know how much more they have to offer if they'd take on a leadership role.

The Carefree Chickadee:

These birds just want to help. Things like association bylaws and policies are just obstacles to doing the wonderful things they want to do.

he Grandiose Grouse:

If you give them enough recognition, they will give you some work back. Stroke a Grouse but don't expect too much.

The Bright-Eyed Fledgling:

Fledglings are the newer members of the profession or industry. Welcome them, help them, and encourage them to be active in your association.

The Tough Old Turkey:

Turkeys are members who have been around a while and now demand to be catered to. Taking care of them costs the association more than they contribute.

The Wise Old Owl:

The Owl is also a senior member, but he/she is more interested in giving something back than in having his/her ego stroked. Listen to the Owl's advise even if you don't heed it.

The Touchy Titmouse:

If the association doesn't do every last thing perfectly, these birds fly the coop; they are on a fragile-ego flight.

The Bottomline Vulture:

Vultures will work for the association only when it benefits them directly. Vultures view the association as a tool to be used and discarded.

The Association Eagle:

They may only be five or ten percent of the flock, but they soar above the crowd. They serve and organize. Try to spot the Eagles early. They will be quietly working their way up thru the ranks, getting the job done, seldom complaining. They make an association fly.

serve and organize. Try to spot the Eagles early. They will be quietly working their way up thru the ranks, getting the job done, seldom complaining. They make an association fly.

Source: American Executive News of North Carolina

How To become An Eagle

1. Attend every association meeting you can. Your presence is important.
2. Don't find fault with association operations, rather, try to make suggestions as to workable improvements.
3. Say "yes," when you are asked to serve on a committee or be an officer.
4. If you are not asked, continue to think up or propose particular ideas for building the association and you'll soon be noticed.
5. After you are named, attend all board and committee meetings.
6. When you attend meetings, express your opinions inside the meeting on how things should be done, not after you leave.
7. Work for the association every chance you get. Don't criticize the "Old Reliables" but instead join them.
8. Help make sure, to the best of your ability, that all meetings, seminars and conferences are worthwhile expenditures of members' time and money.
9. Keep meetings strictly business.. Use your ability to help reach wise decisions as quickly as possible, then have fun when the business is completed.

Members And Guests Are Welcome At All Meetings

Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O.Box 151231,
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Grant Pritchard, KK6JJ, 897-4082

Vice President:

Ron Stempel, AB6QP, 892-4586

Secretary:

Bill Morrissey, KM6UX, 455-0355

Treasurer:

Bob Mott, KO6EN, 435-1569

Director:

Bob Laflamme, KC6UNC, 472-4219

Director:

Stu Dake, AC6GD, 382-8217

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R.A.C.E.S. Chairman:

Bob Fajardo, WA6VOI, 892-2441

Membership Chairman:

Pete Wolford, N6IYU, 924-1578

Clubhouse Building 549:

Hamilton Field, 883-9789

Clubhouse Manager:

Dick Fay, KB6JJI, 892-2769

Station Manager & Trustee:

Mike Edwards, W6FCQ, 472-0460

Red Cross Sunday AM meeting:

Red Cross Bldg. S.R, 454-1305

Station Manager:

Stu Dake, AC6GD, 382-8217

Sunday Emergency Nets:

Ed Valenta, WD6AMA, 883-0149

Worked All States Local Rep:

Jackson Sauers, KB6JRI, 388-4094

DX Representative of ARRL:

Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, 892-3829

Club Meetings

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Kaiser Hospital Building 2, first building, on left after turning off Nova Albion Way into Monticello Road; starts at 7:00 PM. Ample parking.

Business Meeting meets on the third Tuesday at Hamilton (Bldg. 549) but starts at 1930 hrs. and usually lasts an hour.

Sunday morning informal meeting, smilingly called The Bible Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Red Cross Bldg., 5th Street slightly east of Lincoln Ave. in San Rafael starting at roughly 0800 hours and closes down about 1100 hrs.

Dues structure is: \$20.00 per year for Students and Retired persons; \$25.00 for Regular membership; \$30.00 for Family membership and no dues for Life or Honorary members.

Coming Events

MARC VE Testing: All level of licenses, 12/.2 at Hamilton Field Clubhouse 0900 hours.

VOMARC VE All Licenses, 11/11, Geln Ellen, Sonoma Development Center, 0900 hrs.

SRMS VE 10/14 & 12/16. Petaluma Senior Citizens Center

Candidate Requirements: A photo identification or two non-photo IDs. The Original and a photocopy of your current license, if licensed. Any original valid CSCEs and photocopies, if you have any CSCEs. Radiotelegraph license if held (see VE.) Medical exemptions (see VE.) Fee is \$5.90 but Novice Test is free.

Warning! Test dates subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Emergency Nets

W6SG Sunday AM 1000 - Voice (LSB)3.915 MHz.
 1015 - Voice (FM) 147.33 +600 PL 203.5

RACES - Monday nite 1930 - Voice 147.33 +600 PL 203.5
ACS - Follows at 2000 on same frequency